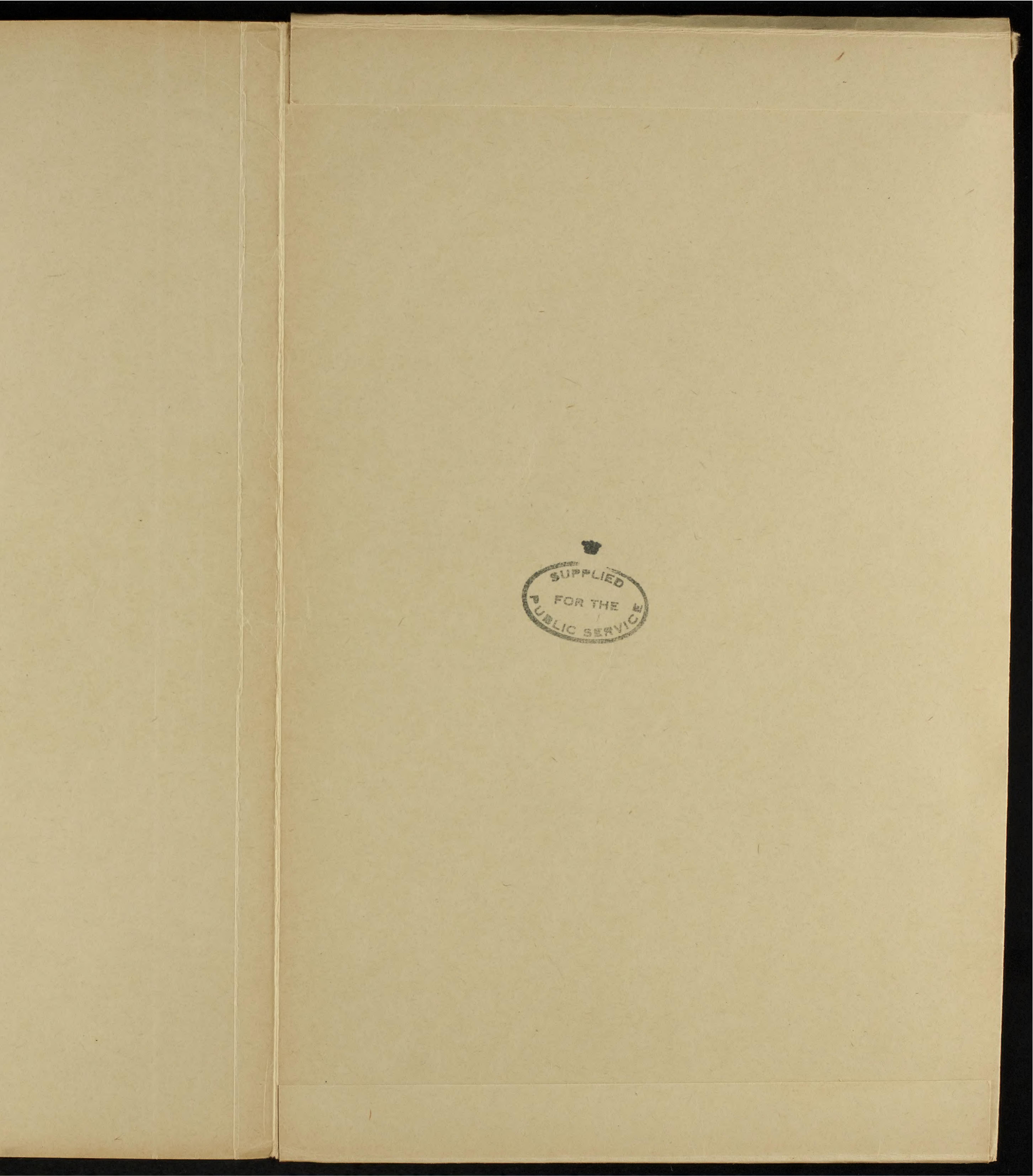
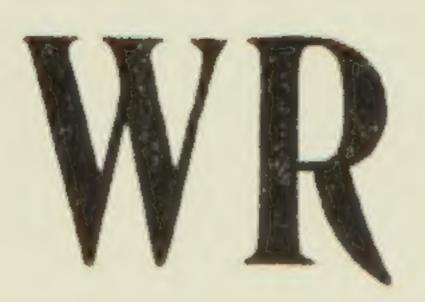
GENERAL

1944

File No. 141 (WR)

CLOSED UNTIL 1972





REFUGEES

WR. 141

1944

Registry WR 141/141/48

FROM Mr. Gascoigne, Tangier.

No. 206.

Dated 23rd June, 1944.

Received in Registry 10th July, 1944.

WR: Refugees.

Emigration of Jewish refugees from Tangier

Transmits copy of a memorandum by Mr. Consul Watkinson regarding the possible emigration of Jewish refugees from Tangier to Palestine.

States that, of the total of ninety-five families in Tangier who are prospective emigrants to Palestine, very few will be able to satisfy both physical and financial standards considered necessary.

Copied Madrid and Lisbon.

Last Paper.

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Minutes.)

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
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TANGIER.

No. 206.

23rd June 1944. 4

Sir,

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I have the honour to transmit to you herewith for purposes of record a copy of a memorandum by Mr. Consul Watkinson concerning the possible emigration of Jewish refugees from Tangier to Palestine.

- 2. Wou will observe that there is at present a total of some 95 families in Tangier who are prospective emigrants to Palestine, that it seems doubtful whether any of these families are up to the required physical standards and that none of the applicants satisfy the financial requirements, unless the guarantees of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Board or of the Jewish Agency in London are considered to be sufficient.
- 3. Copies of this despatch are being transmitted to His Majesty's Ambassadors at Madrid and Lisbon.

I have the honour to be, With the highest respect, Sir,

Your most obedient, humble Servant,

His Majesty's
Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs,
Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1.

MEMORANDUM ON POSSIBLE EMIGRATION OF JEWISH REFUGEES FROM TANGIER TO PALESTINE Mr. Mordecai Kessler, representative of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Board in Tangier, called at the Consulate General on the 2 May to discuss the question of Jewish relief in Tangier. He said that his organisation was now working on a definite basis in Tangier and was giving out substantial relief to Jews of all nationalities. He asked for the assistance of His Majesty's Consulate General in ascertaining from the Greek and from the Czech Governments whether they would feel disposed to assist their Jewish nationals here, and whether the sending of Polish relief funds from Casablanca could be expedited. He was informed that the Greek authorities had already refused to pay relief to their nationals in Tangier, partly because the claim to Greek nationality of many of them was considered by their Legation in Madrid to be doubtful, and that the Czech Chargé d'Affaires in Madrid was sending relief money regularly through this Consulate General to severe persons. The question of Polish funds was taken up with the Polish Consulate at Casablanca through His Majesty's Consul there. Mr. Kessler then reported that Mr. Lichtenstein, a Jewish Commissioner from the United Kingdom, was due to arrive shortly in Tangier from Lisbon, who would bring with him full particulars of a scheme for admitting Jewish refugees from Central Europe and the Near East at present in Tangier to Palestine. He expressed great surprise that we had no official information regarding this scheme. On the following day a telegram arrived from His Majesty's Embassy at Lisbon announcing the intending visit of Mr. Lichtenstein to Madrid and to Tangier and possibly Casablanca with a view to selecting suitable candidates for immigration to Palestine, and asking that appropriate facilities might be given to him. Mr. Lichtenstein arrived on the same day and called at the Consulate General along with Mr. Kessler. 5. They stated that it was proposed to select up to 100 Jews out of a possible 500 applicants who had already been in touch with the American Joint Distribution Board, and that their names would be submitted to the Consulate General with a view to visas being issued on instructions being received from the Passport Control Officer at Madrid, who was said by Mr. Lichtenstein to have authorisation to grant such visas without reference to Jerusalem on his recommendation and who would, he said, transfer similar authority to Tangier. 6. As nothing whatever was known about such arrangements the matter was at once referred to His Majesty's Embassy at Madrid for instructions. Meanwhile Mr. Kessler handed in a list of all Jews on his relief books, 715 in number, some of whom were marked as being interested in going to Palestine. The remainder might be included in another scheme for assisting immigrants to Canada, but this scheme was as yet confidential. He asked that the list might be checked over by the security authorities. A message for the Passport Control Officer at Madrid was sent on the 3 May through His Majesty's Embassy in our telegram No. 125, informing him of the arrival of Mr. Lichtenstein who had stated that the Passport Control Office was authorised to grant visas for Palestone to Jewish refugees in Spain and Spanish occupied territory (e.g. Tangier) on his recommendation provided that no objection existed on security grounds and that /dimilar

Immigration Certificates for 600 families from the Iberian Peninsula and that "a convincing case must be presented for admission of each bunch from a safe country; otherwise places are taken which should be reserved for persons rescued from danger". It appeared from the telegram that its interpretation and necessary action lay with His Majesty's Ambassador at Madrid.

Jerusalem and sent to Lisbon, Madrid and Tangier, made confusion worse confounded. It stated that recommendations of the Jewish Agency should be declined unless we were satisfied that this would cause severe personal hardship and also that prospective immigrants either possess papital available or transferable to Palestine, and are physically capable of agricultural or industrial employment. Further elucidation is awaited from London, Lisbon or Madrid. None of the applicants in Tangier satisfies the financial clause and it is doubtful whether many of them are up to the required physical standard.

(sgd.) A.E. Watkinson

H.M. Consul.

British Consulate General, Tangier,

22nd June, 1944.

File Number:-

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REFUGEES.

REFUGEES

1944

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REFUGEES

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1944

Registry Number WR 142/141/48

FROM Mr. Gascoigne, Tangier.

No. 202.

Dated 23rd June, 1944.
Received

Received in Registry 10th July, 1944

WR: Refugees.

Emigration of Jewish refugees from Tangier

Transmits copy of a memorandum by Mr. Consul Watkinson regarding the proposed emigration of Christian and Jewish refugees from Tangier to Canada.

Mr. Cormier, the Canadian Emigration Officer considers that the final list of refugees destined for Canada will include one Christian family and twenty-five Jewish families.

Copied Madrid and Lisbon.

Last Paper.

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References.

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BRITISH CONSULATE GENERAL,

TANGIER.

No. 202.

23rd June, 1944.

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Sir,

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith for purposes of record a copy of a memorandum by Mr. Consul Watkinson relative to the proposed emigration of Christian and jewish refugees from Tangier to Canada.

- 2. You will observe that Mr. Cormier, the Canadian Emigration Officer, who has been working in Tangier on this problem, considers that the final list of refugees destined for Canada will, subject to the security check, include one Christian family and 25 Jewish families.
- Copies of this despatch are being transmitted to His Majesty's Ambassadors at Madrid and Lisbon.

I have the honour to be, With the highest respect,

Your most obedient, humble Servant,

His Majesty's
Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs,
Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1.

MEMORANDUM RESPECTING POSSIBLE EMIGRATION OF CHRISTIAN AND JEWISH REFUGEES FROM TANGIER TO CANADA

On the 28 May, 1944, Mr. Mordecai Kessler, of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Board, wrote to the Consulate General referring to a complete list of Jewish refugees then in Tangier which he had asked might be checked for security purposes in conjunction with a possible Canadian emigration project. (The list referred to contained the names of 715 persons, all Jews, some of whom were marked with a "P" indicating that they were considered suitable as immigrants to Palestine by Mr. Lichtenstein of the Jewish Agency, London, who was then in Tangier: the rest were said to be interested in going to Canada, also under the auspices of the Jewish Joint Distribution Board.) Mr. Kessler informed us that Mr. Cormier, Canadian Attaché at Lisbon, would be arriving in Tangier early in June with a medical officer to interview and examine these candidates.

- 2. The list was handed to the competent department of the Consulate General, who went through the names marked "P" with a view to security check for the Palestine project.
- 3. A further list of Christians interested in Canada was handed in later by the Secretary of the local Jewish Refugee Assistance Committee. This was also checked by the security authorities.
- 4. A telegram received from His Majesty's Embassy at Madrid on the 31 May referred to an application made to the Spanish authorities for facilities for Mr. Cormier's visit to Tangier. We replied pointing out that no visa was needed for Tangier as such.
- 5. On the 1 June, Mr. Kessler handed in a memorandum on the Canadian project, showing the qualifications required from candidates in Spain and Portugal,
- of the 2 June we received a despatch from Madrid (No. 14 of the 11 May) regarding the visit of Mr. Cormier to Tangier with a view to making arrangements for the departure of refugees from Tangier to Canada. The enclosure in this despatch included the text of a telegram from Ottawa to Madrid dated the 5 May, referring to Mr. Cormier's visit to Spanish Morocco to conduct civil inspection and to arrange for medical examination of the refugee families. The telegram stated that there had been one movement of such refugees already and that it was expected that a second one would take place shortly.
- 7. Mr. Cormier arrived in Tangier on the 16 June, accompanied by a lady secretary (Mrs. Champsaur) and a doctor (Dr. Russell).
- 8. He called at the Consulate General on the following day and handed in what he called a final list of prospective immigrants which he asked should be checked for security reasons. It contained names and details of 64 families with a supplementary list of 9 families. He was then informed that the original list communicated by Mr. Kessler had been sent to London for checking by the Central Security authorities in accordance with instructions received from there. (The Military Attaché also informed His Majesty's Consul General that a special warning had been received from Madrid regarding the discretion of Mr. Cormier.)
- 9. The Security authorities met Mr. Cormier in my office on the 19 June and they were asked to supply a copy of the adverse reports which they had sent to London, since Mr. Cormier

was not disposed to accept any applicant against whom there were any local black marks.

- 10. A list of persons to be refused was given to Mr. Cormier on the 21 June compiled by the joint American and British security services. Meanwhile he had put in two further supplementary lists, (which were telegraphed to Security, London). Two further supplementary lists were handed in on the 21 June and have been submitted to the British and American Security authorities.
- 11. On the 22 June a telegram was received from Ottawa instructing Cormier to issue no visas unless he received instructions to do so, as the security question was under consideration there. He had not issued any and will not do so. When he leaves on the 26 June he will hand in a list of persons who have been medically examined and the issue or otherwise of visas will rest with the Consulate General on receipt of instructions from him in Lisbon, whither he is returning via Madrid.
- 12. Cormier had a further talk to the Press Attaché on the evening of the 22 June and he stated that the final list will in all probability consist of one Christian family and 25 Jewish families, subject to the security check of the last two supplementary lists above referred to. He says that the Americans agree to this and will issue transit visas to these persons if we have issued visas for Canada.

(sgd.) A.E. Watkinson.

H. M. Consul.

British Consulate General, Tangier.

22nd June, 1944.

File Number:-

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REFUGES.

REFUGEES

1944

